

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (~~currently amended~~) A method for enabling the execution of ~~at least an I/O~~ operations by at least a host on at least a production storage element while providing producing an updated a snapshot copy of a storage system said production storage element, said method comprises the steps of:

a) performing on-line ~~at least a primary task of said I/O operation~~ a write request initiated by said host by writing a data chunk, wherein ~~said primary task is performed using to a journal;~~

b) generating a response message ending the execution of said ~~I/O operation~~ write request and thereby handling said host to execute said I/O operations; and,

c) ~~off-line performing off line secondary tasks of said I/O operation~~ producing said updated snapshot copy of said production storage element.

2. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said journal includes at least one non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) unit.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein ~~said performing on-line said write request at least a primary task~~ further comprises the step[[s]] of:

a) ~~writing a data chunk included in said write request into said journal; and,~~

b) ~~saving a destination address designated in said write request in a changes table.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 7, wherein ~~said performing~~ off-line ~~producing secondary tasks~~ said updated snapshot copy further comprises the steps of:

a) checking in said changes table if said data chunk residing in ~~the a~~ snapshot storage element that includes said updated snapshot copy was modified since a last time that said updated snapshot copy was updated ~~created~~;

b) copying said data chunk from a location in ~~the~~ said production storage element to said snapshot storage element and further copying said data chunk from said journal to a location in said production storage element, if said data chunk has not been modified; and,

c) copying said data chunk from said journal to said production storage element, if said data chunk has been modified.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said location in said production storage element is determined by said destination address.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said destination address is converted to a physical address if said production storage element is a virtual volume.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said I/O operations comprise ~~is a~~ read request initiated by the host computer.

Serial No. 10/813,757

Page 4 of 16

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said executing said read request performing on-line at least a primary task further comprises the steps of:
- a) checking if a data chunk requested to be read resides in said journal; ~~and;~~
 - b) retrieving said data chunk from said journal and further sending said data chunk to said host, if said data chunk resides in said journal; and -
 - c) retrieving said data chunk from said production storage element and further sending said data chunk to said host, if said data chunk does not reside in said journal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein checking if said data chunk resides in said journal further comprises the step of:

checking whether the changes table includes an entry associated with said data chunk.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~14, wherein said data chunk is retrieved from a location designated by a source address included in said read request.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said source address is converted to a physical address if said production storage element is a virtual volume.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable code enabling the execution of at least an I/O operations by at least a host on at least a production storage element while producing an updated ~~providing a snapshot copy~~

84146217_1

Serial No. 10/813,757

Page 5 of 16

of said ~~production storage element~~~~a storage system~~, said executable code for performing the steps of:

- a) performing on-line a write request initiated by said host by writing a data chunk to at least a primary task of said I/O operation, wherein said primary task is performed using a journal;
- b) generating a response message ending the execution of said write request and thereby handling said host to execute said I/O operations~~I/O operation~~; and,
- c) off-line producing said updated snapshot copy of said production storage element~~performing off-line secondary tasks of said I/O operation.~~

19. - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The computer executable code of claim 18, wherein said journal includes at least one non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) unit.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The computer executable code of claim ~~23~~18, wherein said performing on-line said write request ~~at least a primary task~~ further comprises the step[[s]] of:

- a) ~~writing a data chunk included in said write request into said journal; and,~~
- b) saving a destination address designated in said write request in a changes table.

25. (Cancelled)

84146217_1

Serial No. 10/813,757

Page 6 of 16

26. (Currently Amended) The computer executable code of claim ~~23~~24, wherein ~~said performing off-line producing said updated snapshot copy secondary tasks~~ further comprises the steps of:

a) checking in said changes table if said data chunk resides in ~~the~~a snapshot storage element that includes said updated snapshot copy was modified since a last time that said updated snapshot copy was updated~~created~~;

b) copying said data chunk from a location in said ~~the~~ production storage element to said snapshot storage element and further copying said data chunk from said journal to a location in said production storage element, if said data chunk has not been modified; and,

c) copying said data chunk from said journal to said production storage element, if said data chunk has been modified.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer executable code of claim 26, wherein said ~~the~~ location in said production storage element is determined by said destination address.

28. (Original) The computer executable code of claim 27, wherein said destination address is converted to a physical address if said production storage element is a virtual volume.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer executable code of claim 18, wherein said I/O operations comprise ~~is a~~ read request by the host.

Serial No. 10/813,757

Page 7 of 16

30. (Currently Amended) The computer executable code of claim 29, wherein ~~said~~
~~executing said read request performing at least a primary task~~ further comprises the steps of:

- a) checking if a data chunk requested to be read resides in said journal; ~~and;~~
- b) retrieving said data chunk from said journal and further sending said data chunk to said host, if said data chunk resides in said journal; and
- c) retrieving said data chunk from said storage element and further sending said data chunk to said host, if said data chunk does not reside in said journal.-

31. (Original) The computer executable code of claim 30, wherein checking if said data chunk resides in said journal further includes:

checking whether the changes table includes an entry associated with said data chunk.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The computer executable code of claim ~~32~~31, wherein said data chunk is retrieved from a location designated by a source address included in said read request.

34. (Original) The computer executable code of claim 33, wherein said source address is converted to a physical address if said production storage element is a virtual volume.

84146217_1

Serial No. 10/813,757

Page 8 of 16

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for execution of ~~at least an I/O operations~~ with ~~by at least a host on at least a production storage element minimal latency while providing~~ an producing an updated snapshot copy of said production storage element storage system, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving ~~said a at least an I/O write request~~ operation from said host;

means for performing on-line ~~at said write request by writing a data chunk to a journal~~ least one primary task of said at least an I/O operation;

means for ~~performing~~ off-line producing said updated snapshot copy of said production storage element ~~at least a secondary task of said at least an I/O operation~~;

means for controlling a snapshot storage element;

means for controlling a production storage element; and,

means for controlling a journal.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said snapshot storage element is at least one of: a virtual volume, a physical storage device.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said production storage element is at least one of: a virtual volume, a physical storage device.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said physical storage device comprises at least one of: tape drive, tape library, optical drive, disk, redundant array of independent disks (RAID).

84146217_1

Serial No. 10/813,757

Page 9 of 16

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said journal includes at least one non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) unit.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said I/O operations comprise at least one of: ~~write request~~, a read request.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said apparatus is a storage controller.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said apparatus is a virtualization switch connected in a storage area network (SAN).

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~44~~40, wherein executing said read request ~~said performing said primary task further~~ comprises the steps of:

- a) checking if a data chunk requested to be read resides in said journal; ~~and~~,
- b) retrieving said data chunk from said journal and further sending said data chunk to said host, if said data chunk resides in said journal-; and
- c) retrieving said data chunk from said storage element and further sending said data chunk to said host, if said data chunk does not reside in said journal.

84146217_1

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein checking if said data chunk resides in said journal further comprises:

checking whether ~~the~~ a changes table includes an entry associated with said data chunk.

47. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~48~~35, wherein said performing on-line ~~at least a primary task~~ said further comprises the steps of:

- ~~a) writing a data chunk included in said write request into said journal;;~~
- b) saving a destination address designated in said write request in a changes table; and,
- e) sending a response message ending the execution of said write request to said host.

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~48~~49, wherein ~~said performing off-line secondary tasks~~ producing said updated snapshot copy further comprises the steps of:

- a) checking in a change table if said data chunk resides in the snapshot storage element was modified since a last time said updated snapshot copy was ~~created~~updated;
- b) copying said data chunk from a location in the said production storage element to said snapshot storage element and further copying said data chunk from said journal to a location in said production storage element, if said data chunk has not been modified; and,
- c) copying said data chunk from said journal to said production storage element, if said data chunk has been modified.